



State of Indiana

200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

General Assembly

Indiana Senate
Indiana House of Representatives

April 18, 2012

United States Senator Rand Paul
Crescent Springs
541 Buttermilk Pk Ste 102
Crescent Springs, KY 41017

Dear Senator Paul:

On behalf of our legislative colleagues in the State of Indiana, we urge you to support federal legislation outlawing the possession, sale and distribution of such dangerous drugs as synthetic marijuana, bath salts and other chemicals that are being produced to mimic illegal drugs.

As you may be aware, these synthetic drugs are causing tragic deaths all over the country. Teenagers and adults are using them to get high instead of their illegal counterparts (marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine) because they are relatively cheap and easy to purchase at many head shops and convenience stores.

Here in Indiana, we have been heavily involved in getting these chemicals off the shelves and out of the hands of fellow Hoosiers. Thanks to the passage of HEA 1196 in 2012, which we co-authored, we expanded the list of compounds that are illegal to use in the production of these synthetic drugs. We also gave our State Board of Pharmacy emergency rulemaking procedures to ban additional chemicals, as manufacturers attempt to work around the law. Taking it even a step further, we made retailers subject to losing their license for a period of one year if they are caught continuing to sell these drugs.

Having worked closely with the Indiana State Police chemist lab, the folks at Drug Free Marion County, the DEA, all interested local media outlets and families who have lost loved ones by using these dangerous drugs, we cannot express to you the importance of passing a strong ban at the federal level. The effects – both short and long-term – of these drugs are both alarming and devastating.

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We assure you, this bill received unanimous, bi-partisan support in both the Indiana State Senate and House of Representatives. And while at least 34 other states have already passed laws banning spice/bath salts – including Kentucky – some are working as we write this to get effective laws on the books. The passage of federal legislation to ban all synthetic drugs is urgently needed to save lives, and we implore you to do all you can to shepherd this issue through Congress.

You are welcome to contact either of our offices if you wish to discuss this issue by phone or view any specific materials from our files. We are anxious to be of assistance in any way we can. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James W. Merritt, Jr.
Indiana State Senator
(317) 232-9400

Sincerely,



Ron Alting
Indiana State Senator
(317) 232-9400

Sincerely,



Milo Smith
Indiana State Representative
(812)-343-8624

JWM/ds

Cc: U.S. Senator Richard Lugar
U.S. Senator Dan Coats